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U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Christopher M. Gaylord, 13th Public Affairs Det.

Pvt. William M. Duke, a tanker assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, pulls security after touching down during an air assault mission to the northwest of the town of Karabila during the field training exercise, April 28, 2007.



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Raider Scrimmage, Upcoming Events

By Col. James Pasquarette
Commander, 1st BCT

Soldiers of the Raider Brigade.

As I write this update for the Raider Review we have just completed

RAIDER SCRIMMAGE. What a fantastic exercise. I can not count the number of times that Soldiers told me it was just what we needed. Right up front, I want to thank everyone that made this one of the best training experiences in my 24 years in the Army.

I saw real growth in our Soldiers and teams over the last three weeks. Most importantly, I have a better understanding of what we need to do with the time available before deployment. I challenge the leaders out there to fix their deficient areas.

I am guessing the most learning took place by our Soldiers that play-



acted as Iraqis in the towns of Karabila, al Quam, Gumruk, al Batha and Ubaydi. They experienced first hand what it is like to be treated with dignity and respect – and what it is like to be treated with a lack of respect. The average Iraqi is just like you – he wants to be treated respectfully. Not doing so may push him closer to the insurgency. Think about this as you continue to train for the deployment.

The next big event for the battalions is gunnery. It has been over two years since the brigade shot a qualification gunnery. Take advantage of this opportunity to hone your skills that are probably a bit rusty. I am looking forward to watching some professionals in action on the Fort Hood ranges.

Finally, the Department of Defense recently announced that 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division will deploy to Iraq in December. This is not unexpected – we have been anticipating this announcement for several months. Get focused on what you need to do to become deployable. There is quite a list that must be in order. The chain of command will ensure you are

trained for what you need to do. I need you to ensure you do the individual tasks (dental, medical, legal, etc) that will allow you to get on an airplane in December.

O.K. I am so proud of how the brigade has reformed in the last few months. Just three months ago we did not even have any equipment and today we have just completed a brigade level exercise. This is thanks to your hard work. Thanks for what you are doing serving our nation in this critically important time. You are making a real difference.

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To contribute to the Raider Review contact the 1st BCT Public Affairs Office or send stories, photos and information to david.olson1@hood.army.mil

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Hammond
4th Inf. Div. Commander

Col. James Pasquarette
1st BCT Commander

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb
1st BCT Command Sergeant Major

Maj. David Olson
1st BCT Public Affairs Officer

Capt. Isaac Taylor
Commander, 13th Public Affairs Det.

Sgt. Joy Pariente
Editor, NCOIC, 13th PAD

Sgt. Jason R. Krawczyk
Print NCO, 13th PAD

Spc. David Hodge
Pfc. Tiffany Mercer
Pfc. Adam C. Blazak
Pvt. Christopher M. Gaylord
Staff writers

Discipline vital to Soldier, leader relations

By Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb
Command Sergeant Major, 1st BCT

This month we had more “Raiders” graduate from the Warrior Leader Course, congratulations to Staff Sgt. Joshua Scheelar from Company B, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, he was selected for the commandants list. Also congratulations to the 15 “Raider” Soldiers who reenlisted this past week.



The training here at North Fort Hood was much needed for our Soldiers. In the past few weeks I have observed our Soldiers going through some tough, rigorous training in conditions that were sometimes wet and cold. This is part of preparing our Soldiers for the brutal realities of actual combat; a leader's most important duty.

There are some areas that we must continue to improve on, so I would like to share some thoughts with you on discipline. The highest form of discipline is the willing obedience of subordinates who trust their leaders, understand and believe in the mission's purpose, value the

team and their place in it, and have the will to see the mission through.

Leaders who consistently enforce standards are instilling discipline that will make a difference in critical situations. Disciplined Soldiers will do the right thing, even if they do not feel like it and even when their leaders are not around.

Throughout this exercise our leaders have done an outstanding job of protecting the force and using risk management to ensure safety standards are appropriate. I would like to leave you with this quote from Albert Einstein.

“The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them.”

Raider 7



Lt. Col. Darren Werner, commander, 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division awards Spc. Paul King, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th SB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. with an Army Achievement Medal May 6. Other recipients included 1st Lt. Dwayne Bowden and Spc. Andrew Keel both with HHC, 4th SB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. and Spc. Brian Patterson, Company B, 4th SB. Pvt. Victor Somoza, Pvt. Jessica Clark, both with HHC, Spc. John Brewer of Company A, Spc. Jeffery Schulzer of Company B and Spc. Katie Boesch of Company C all received coins from Col. James Pasquarette, commander, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Tiffany Mercer, 13th Public Affairs Det.

Raider Brigade Chaplain's Corner:

Make a midcourse correction

By CH (Maj.) John Morales

1st BCT Chaplain

Does the road you are on lead you somewhere or nowhere? I have seen many a person who felt that they were heading on the right path only to crash and burn. With all the incessant demands placed on us by others and ourselves we feel like we are on one neverending rollercoaster. We live in a society where troubles are always the result of something or someone else. But are they?

Sometimes the hardest and only thing we can do is make a midcourse correction. A Navy vessel, if one degree off course, can end up hundreds of miles off course if the error is unnoticed and uncorrected. And in life, being in the wrong place at the wrong time can end up catastrophically. Harmony and balance, in life and relationships, requires consistent and sustained self-examination. An ancient Greek philosopher once said, ***"An unexamined life isn't worth living."*** I believe this is important in that the most lamentable living comes when self-examination and course correction is neglected and we invariably rush head on into disaster.

As we move deeper into our preparations for deployment we all have concerns about our ability to survive this impending storm. I am convinced that God has wired us to endure more than we think; the hard part is believing it and experiencing it. I have read books on family, relationships and leadership and one theme, among others, permeates them: Midcourse corrections fertilize the

ability to stay on track, to stay moving forward and to navigate potential impediments to a thriving life. I would like to pass on some ideas that may help:

1. Seek the straight path. This requires diligence, focus and a firm conviction that though the crooked road may be easy, it is not always the best.

2. Develop a vital optimism. This is not the pie in the sky mindset, but the firm belief that things will work out. It is like believing the sun will come up in the morning even when you can not see it. Ninety percent of Americans call it faith.

3. Develop dissatisfaction with the status quo. Changing people or ourselves is not simple, but if the road we are on is easy, but is getting us nowhere: change lanes. If the status quo does not work, why keep on embracing it just because "Johnny does?" What have we to lose?

4. Find something to live for. Genuine passion and focus in life requires that we have a personal purpose, something that makes us want to get up tomorrow. Miserable creatures often only look out for themselves and in the end, end up alone and lost.

5. Follow someone who has succeeded. Role models are great if we find that they have weathered the same storms as us and have thrived. Latch on to someone whose path is worth following, their course corrections can enlighten and enliven.

6. Reach for the best, in yourself and others. Nothing stagnates life's travels more than a pessimistic belief that life "sucks then you die." Belief

in the negative keeps the focus downward rather than upward where the panorama of life can be seen.

7. Be willing to give up what's good for what's best. Do not settle with the first thing that comes along. Push through for the ideal thing you hunger for, it may take some effort but in the end that which we fight for is the sweetest to have and to value.

8. Be willing to hear the words of others, even when it hurts. Correction from friends and colleagues, though painful for the moment, provide us opportunity to see things as they really are, and as they could be. Thus providing guidance and insight for where we want to and for what we want to be.

More could be said, but suffice it to say that the balance and equilibrium we seek will only be found when we are willing to seek a different path to travel on than the one we are on. Nothing in life is guaranteed, I realize that, but as the old BMW commercial once said, "life is a journey, ride in style." Everyday our time on this planet shrinks, but the opportunity for a fruitful and abundant life grows. What are you gonna do, stay on your course or make the corrections and get back on the track you want-regardless of the size of the waves of the storm you are in? Only you and God know the answer.

Raider Brigade Judge's Corner:

The lasting effects of drug use on the life of a Soldier

By Capt. Danisha L. Morris

1st BCT SJA

In the February 15th edition of the Judge's Corner in the Raider Review, Maj. Doug Watkins provided insight into the hidden legal, financial, and professional costs of driving under the influence. In this issue, we examine the lasting effects of drug use on the physiological, personal, and professional life of a Soldier.

All too often, people make spur-of-the-moment decisions, the consequences of which last long after the fruits of those decisions have been savored. This may be true of a decision to purchase a car, to take a vacation, or to splurge on a shopping trip. Fortunately, for most of our decisions, there is an opportunity to fully recover from the effects. However, there are some decisions from which a person, and more specifically a Soldier, may never recover. One of those is the decision to use drugs.

Many of the commonly-observed effects of over-indulging in alcohol and using drugs are immediate, but temporary, such as headaches, dizziness, nausea, and the lingering pain of a hangover. These effects, however painful, are generally only felt by the person making the decision to indulge. For this reason, they often appear to be just temporary nuisances that are forgotten as soon as the symptoms subside.

What people often fail to realize is that drug use can and does affect them, their families, and their future, long after the physical manifestations

of the presence of the drugs in the system have worn off. Specifically, on a long-term basis, drug use can cause irreparable short-term and long-term physiological harm.

Every substance of abuse—alcohol, cocaine, methamphetamine, heroine, marijuana, etc.—has some physiological effect on the body. Alcohol impairs judgment and leads to memory lapses and blackouts. It distorts vision, shortens coordination, and in addition to the brain, can damage every other organ in the body.

Cocaine, both in powder form and as crack, can lead to feelings of paranoia and anxiety. Although often used to enhance sex drive, the physical effect of cocaine on the receptors in the brain actually reduces the ability to feel pleasure.

Known on the street as meth, speed, ice, crystal, and glass; methamphetamine is a highly addictive drug that can cause hallucinations, stroke, and failure of the heart or kidneys.

Users of heroine can remain in a fog for many hours after use. And marijuana has been found to impair short-term memory and attention for the duration of its effects and, in some cases, for the next day.

On a short-term basis, drug use alters the normal communication that occurs among brain neurons and brain circuits. Specifically, cocaine and methamphetamines have been shown to specifically disrupt the dopamine neurotransmitter system. This is significant because dopamine controls the flow of information throughout

areas of the brain. Additionally, dopamine disorders in the frontal lobes of the brain can cause a decline in neurocognitive functions, especially memory, attention, and problem solving. Reduced dopamine concentrations are also thought to contribute to attention deficit disorder.

Long-term use of drugs, such as amphetamines, may lead to malnutrition, skin disorders, ulcers and diseases resulting from vitamin deficiencies. Regular and large dosages may also contribute to lack of sleep and weight loss and may eventually result in amphetamine-induced psychosis (paranoia), mental illness or suicide.

Some of the other long-term effects of drug use are hallucinations, violent aggressive behavior, permanent psychological problems, lowered resistance to illnesses, and brain damage. Recent studies have documented permanent, physical changes to neural pathways in the brain from methamphetamine use.

It is important to note that there is no way to predict how long it will take for an individual to begin to suffer from the effects of long-term drug use. But one thing is certain, the more frequent the drug use, the more quickly the chronic results will appear.

In addition to the physiological harm that results from drug use, there are many negative social effects. For example, children raised in homes with parents who use drugs do poorly in school as compared with children of non-drug users. This is due to a

1st BCT lane training at full throttle

Story and photos by
Pfc. Tiffany Mercer
13th Public Affairs Det.

Soldiers with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, the Raider Brigade, 4th Infantry Division mounted up and convoyed out to North Fort Hood for a three-week field training exercise to prepare for their next trip downrange in support of the Global War on Terror.

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb, the senior enlisted leader for the Raider Brigade, explained how "Raider Scrimmage," will help the Soldiers become more proficient with the tasks that will be asked of them while they are deployed.

"We want every Soldier to focus on the basic skills that might have fallen behind since their last deployment," Bobb said.

Most of the Soldiers have just returned from a tour in Iraq, so this is mainly a reiteration of what they practiced while they were there, Bobb added.

"We've only been here a couple of days, and from what I've seen in the last 24 hours, a gradual improvement has already begun," Bobb said. "We want them to go back to knowing their skills and acting upon them like it is second nature." During the last deployment the Soldiers with 1st BCT knew their mission and knew what they needed to do to accomplish it.

Lt. Col Richard Caya, the executive officer for 1st BCT, explained how Forward Operating Base Raider, where Soldiers will be staying during the duration of their training, is a environment set up as a replica of what the Raider Brigade could potentially see the next time they answer our nation's call. This

increases the realistic field that they will have while in theatre, he said.

"We want to train our Soldiers to know how to secure our AO (area of operation), build trust with the population, try to neutralize insurgency attacks that are known to be in the areas, and other exercises that will help while we are deployed," Caya added.

Many of the missions that take place while the Raider Brigade is in the field will not be like normal situational training exercises like in the old days, he added, and there is no certain number to how many missions will be conducted.

"The missions will be dependent upon how each unit accomplishes their tasks," Caya explained.

1SG Bryan M. Bandy, Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., said he hopes his Soldiers will leave FOB Raider more improved than when they started.

"These are obstacles they'll encounter overseas," Bandy added. "Some of my Soldiers are ones that deployed with us during our last tour. Others are new and have never deployed, so this is a way for them to work together and get rid of any initial problems to make sure we accomplish the mission while downrange."

Bobb said he felt the training will help Soldiers prepare for future missions.

"By the time we leave here, I feel confident that we will have accomplished what we needed to do and that we're ready for our next mission," Bobb said.



Soldiers of 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. follow the battle from the tactical operations center.



U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Joy Pariente, 13th Public Affairs Det.

Col. James Pasquarette, commander, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division prepares to present awards to outstanding members of the Raider Team.

An Army Achievement Medal was awarded to Pvt. Christopher M. Gaylord, 13th Public Affairs Detachment.

Military working dogs and handlers including Staff Sgt. Kendall Woodard and Benson, Sgt. Christina Billingsley and Liaka, Sgt. Matthew Carlson and Karo and Sgt. Eileen Edgerton and Ranny, of the 178th Military Police company received Certificates of Achievement.

Jose Ramos received a Certificate of Appreciation for his help coordinating the exercise.

Robert Simmons was inducted into the Raider Roll of Fame for his contributions to the Raider Brigade.

Finally, Pfc. Tiffany Mercer and Pfc. Adam Blazak, 13th Public Affairs Detachment, received brigade coins.

McCreadie receives EFMB honors

Story by Sgt. Joy Pariente
13th Public Affairs Det.

"I will never leave a fallen comrade" is one of the tenants of the Soldier Creed. Every day a dedicated group of warriors live this creed...U.S. Army medics.

Only three medics out of the 154 who started the Expert Field Medical Badge testing on April 16, completed the rigorous training April 27.

One 4th Infantry Division Soldier excelled completing the training as the Distinguished Honor Graduate.

Spc. John McCreadie, Headquarters and Headquarters



Photo by Command Sgt. Major Michael Bobb, 1st BCT

Spc. John McCreadie, right, with fellow Expert Field Medic Badge recipients 1st Lt. Brian French, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division (center) and Pfc. David Schaffner, 566th Area Support Medical Company, 61st Multifunctional Medical Battalion, 1st Medical Brigade.

See EFMB, Page 20

Air assault raid captures 4

Story and Photos by Sgt. Jason R.
Krawczyk

13th Public Affairs Det.

Service members on Forward Operating Base Raider can sleep easier tonight knowing that 3rd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, has captured four insurgents responsible for recent mortar attacks on the FOB.

Approximately 30 Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers air assaulted into the objective using two UH-60 Black hawks. The teams moved in two chawks and made two round trips to drop off the personnel. The first UH-60 load secured the perimeter until the second arrived to search the buildings for any insurgents.

"This was a well executed mission, the planning and the execution went off without a hitch. We got the insurgents and didn't lose anyone, anytime that happens it is a success," said Capt. Drew Conover, commander, Co. A, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt.



Above: A UH -60 gunner watches the area while enroute to find the mortar team during a mission April 20 with 3rd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

Below: Soldiers from 3rd Plt., Co. A, 1st Bn., 22 Inf. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. practice securing the area after dismounting their UH -60 Blackhawk helicopter April 20.



Two weapons caches found; suspect in custody

Story and Photos by Pfc. Adam C. Blazak
13th Public Affairs Det.

The Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces discovered two caches of weapons Friday in Karabila, Iraq.

"We found five AK-47s in one cache, and a rocket propelled grenade with round, a 155 artillery piece and two shells in another cache," said Staff Sgt. Paul H. Marler, with Company B, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

Once a weapons cache is found, security is adjusted so troops can move in and freely explore the site. Soldiers then see if the area is booby-trapped, photos are taken of what was discovered where they lie, then wait for the explosive ordnance device unit to arrive to destroy the weapons, he said.

"Caches can easily be detected," said Sgt. David B. Bishop, with Co. B, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., 1st

BCT, 4th Inf. Div., who is currently attached to Co. D, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. "We look for loose or disturbed dirt, and long beeps on our metal detectors. We definitely disrupted their supply of weapons."

The owner of the land adjacent to where the caches were found was detained and is in the process of being questioned, Marler said.

The owner, a farmer in Karabila, was tending his field along the wood line with a shovel in his hand, when the troops arrived.

Upon searching the suspect, a shovel, lip balm, his wallet and a notebook were found, Bishop said.

"We search everywhere on the



A view of the weapons cache found by Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces, April 20.

suspect for our safety," he said.

The notebook is currently being translated to see if there is a link between the caches and the farmer, Bishop said. "The mission was important because the weapons were potential roadside bombs, which could have been used against us."

"The mission was a success," Bishop said. This was the unit's first mission in Iraq after touching down just three days ago [April 20].

Ubaydi meeting addresses significant issues

Story and Photos by Pvt. Christopher Gaylord
13th Public Affairs Det.

U.S. Armed Forces and local nationals met to discuss current issues within the village of Ubaydi April 21.

Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division met with leaders of the village to talk over resolutions that will help them become self-sufficient.

"We're working on fostering better relations between coalition forces and local nationals," said 1st

Lt. Charles F. Goodwin, executive officer of Co. B, 1st Bn., 22 Inf. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Infantry Division.

The unit began the meeting by offering a large amount of bottled water to Mostufa Mohammed Al-Dulami, the village sheik. Goodwin spoke with the sheik, and offered solutions to major concerns.

Al-Dulami addressed the issue of needing water for his village, due to two of its four sewage pumps being inoperable, Goodwin said.

Al-Dulami spoke of a lack of security for the drivers who bring food into their village from

Baghdad, and Goodwin offered to arrange more patrols to cover the roads near the village.

"We need food right away and security to bring our food in," Al-Dulami said.

Al-Dulami talked about strange people in the village from time to time.

"I know everyone in my village, and I see a lot of people in my village I don't recognize," Al-Dulami said. "We heard the Shiites take our food and sell it to the highest bidder."

See **MEETING**, Page 22

Co. E brings med aid to Al Batha



Top: Pfc. Windy Klein, health care specialist, and Capt. Lekeisha Rodriguez, brigade nurse, both with Company C, 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division administer aid to a local national who was wounded during a fire fight in Al Batha, April 29.

Left: Sgt. 1st Class Sarah Garcia, medical platoon sergeant, Co. C, 4th SB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. administers aid to a local national with a rash, April 29.

Right: A local national has his wrist bandaged during a medical aid mission with Co. E, 1st Bn., 66th Armor Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. to Al Batha April 29.

*U.S. Army photos by Pfc. Tiffany Mercer
13th Public Affairs Det.*

1-66 AR touches down near Karabila

Story and photos by Pvt.
Christopher M. Gaylord
13th Public Affairs Det.

Soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division and eight Iraqi Army soldiers conducted an air assault mission near the town of Karabila to speak with local nationals, April 28.

"The purpose of the mission was go in and talk to residents of Karabila to see if they had any information on mortar activity or anti-Iraqi forces activity in their area," said 2nd Lt. Jonathan M. Dell, 3rd platoon leader, Co. C, 1st Bn., 66th AR, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

The Soldiers touched down northwest of Karabila in two separate lifts and pulled security while Capt. Roman D. Izzo, the commander of Co. C, spoke with civilians in the town.

"We tactically questioned local national informants and found out they are very scared and have been threatened by anti-Iraqi forces," said Izzo. "Once they felt it was safe, they said there is an AIF cell that comes in,

chases them out of their homes, and hides stuff there."

Another purpose of the mission was to question the informants about a missing Soldier, Spc. Christopher Eplee, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Special Troops Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

"He has been missing for about 48 hours," said Izzo. "Our informants believe that the AIF cell, if they have the missing Soldier, will bring him to their area Saturday night."

That night [April 28], the same units conducted a second air assault, based on the information from the locals.

"We're going to conduct an air assault, secure the area, locate the missing Soldier and detain any AIF we find in the objective area," said Izzo. "We'll also protect our informants and help them in any way."

"Tonight, we have the potential for hostiles, so we will approach the area a bit more cautiously this time," said Izzo.

As for the air assault mission conducted during the day, it was very successful.

"It went quite well," said Izzo. "We



Soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division questioned the towns people of Karabila April 28.

have a lot of guys whose primary mission is not air assault, and they learned fast and performed well."

"The mission was executed very quickly and right as planned," said Dell.

Co. B, 1-66 AR conducts aerial reconnaissance

Story by Pfc. Adam C.
Blazak
13th Public Affairs Det.

Iraqi and Coalition Forces conducted an air assault reconnaissance mission April 27 in the small village of Al Batha, Iraq.

Intelligence indicated that there was a possible mortar cell in the area so local nationals in the area

were tactically questioned, said Capt. Ed Kennedy, the observer controller assisting Company B, 1st Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

Four Iraqis in the village were present and were interviewed by members of a support team.

"We tactically questioned the farmers in

the village," said Sgt. Vincent M. Boyd, a human intelligence collector with Co. A, 1st Special Troops Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. "We need to know the who and where so the mortar attacks can be stopped."

The Iraqis that were questioned denied knowing who was responsible for the mortar

attacks or where a mortar cell existed, Boyd said.

"The overall mission went well," said Staff Sgt. David L. Parker, a squad leader with Co. B, 1st Bn., 66th AR, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. "This mission broke the rust off those of us who have been down range and the new guys got some oil put on them."

7-10 Cav in action - Al Qaim



Top: Soldiers from Troop B, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment prepare to patrol the town of Al-Qaim on May 3.

Left: A Soldier from Troop B, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, provides security in Al-Qaim on May 3.

Right: A Soldier from Troop B, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment stands watch in Al Qaim May 3.



Photos by Sgt. Jason R. Krawczyk
13th Public Affairs Detachment

7-10 Cav in action - Gumruk



Photos by
Sgt. Joy Pariente
13th Public Affairs
Detachment

Left: A Soldier from Troop C, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment provides security in the hallway of a building in Gumruk on May 5.

Right: An Iraqi Army Soldier secures the staircase while searching a building in Gumruk for weapons and insurgents on May 5.

Below: Soldiers from Troop C, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment call in their finds after a building search in Gumruk on May 5. The search turned up insurgent propaganda.



Btry. B finds cache, pulls security



Top left: Staff Sgt. Savador Miranda, Battery B, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division looks for signs of metal in the area while searching for a weapons cache in Karabila on May 2.

Top right: Pfc. Joseph Morales, Btry. B, 4th Bn., 42nd FAR, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. pulls security during the search for a weapons cache in Karabila on May 2.

Left: Soldiers from Btry. B, 4th Bn., 42nd FAR, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. found munitions and weapons buried in Karabila during a cache search on May 2.

Photos by Pvt. Christopher M. Gaylord

13th Public Affairs Det.

Btry. A 4-42 FA patrols in Ubaydi

Story and photos by Spc. David Hodge
1st BCT PAO

Sometimes a face-to-face meeting in a community can accomplish more than any other way of communication. For the Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, Battery A, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division

this type of interaction is as common as any method used today.

The Aztecs, as Btry. A is known, conducted a sheik engagement to discuss ongoing civil projects and to drop off some school supplies to the local school in the town of Ubaydi May 4.

"The civil-military operations we discussed included medical operations, a Nahia meeting, equipment for water purification and IP training," said Capt.

Juan Santiago, commander, Btry. A, 4th Bn., 42nd FAR, 1st BCT. "Also, the Aztecs brought school supplies to the local teacher of the Ubaydi school."

After the information with the sheik had been exchanged, Santiago and his Soldiers delivered school supplies such as pencils and paper to the school.

"The importance of face-to-face interactions help build a better relationship with both the leaders and citizens of Ubaydi," Santiago said.



Capt. Juan Santiago, commander, Battery A, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division delivers school supplies to a teacher in Ubaydi May 4. "The importance of face-to-face interactions help build a better relationship with both the leaders and citizens of Ubaydi," Santiago said.

4SB Soldiers train on aircraft loading

Story and photos by
Spc. David Hodge
1st BCT PAO

Soldiers from several companies within the 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division conducted cargo and detainee loading procedure training with aircraft at the Shorthorn Auxiliary Airfield on Forward Operating Base Raider April 24.

“Today we are training personnel on detainee operations, as well as how to load and unload equipment onto CH-47 helicopters,” said Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Dominguez, acting first sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th SB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

The Soldiers practiced loading detainees by securing them with the seatbelts. Many of the Soldiers were not trained to do this job for the U.S. Army.

“We have different MOSs [military occupational specialties] coming together to train and fill the shortage of 31 Echos, corrections officers, for the DHAA [Division Holding Area Annex] operations,” Dominguez



Above: Sgt. Jace Pedersen, crewman, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division relays directions to a 4th Support Bn., 1st BCT forklift driver while loading a CH-47 Chinook helicopter, April 24.

Below: Spc. Tiffany Hernandez, Co. A, 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Inf. Div. practices loading and unloading cargo from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter, April 24.



See **LOAD**, Page 24

Soldiers aid IPs with vehicle recovery

Story and photos by Spc. David Hodge
1st BCT PAO

Soldiers from several companies within the 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division headed outside the safety of their forward operating base to recover an Iraqi Police vehicle that had been disabled on Route Senators April 28.

The recovery convoy consisted of Soldiers from Company A, Co. B, and Co. C, 4th SB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. and came from a plethora of different military occupational specialties. Medics, truck drivers, and mechanics all came together to work as a team while on missions such as this.

"Regardless of MOS, you need the right training in order to succeed," said Sgt. Chris Horne, truck driver, attached to a personal security detachment, Co. A, 4th SB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

Horne said his team is ready to pull security for recovery missions or anything that comes our way.



Soldiers from 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division recover a disabled Iraqi Police vehicle with an M-88 recovery vehicle April 28.

While a few Soldiers were attaching the harness from the boom of the M-88 recovery vehicle to the disabled IP truck, the convoy came under enemy fire from the wood line. The rear vehicle maneuvered to block the line-of-sight of the insurgents and returned fire.

The ROE training from the past lane training exercises made reactions like second nature, said Pvt. 1st Class

Tony Kamps, truck driver, Co. A, 4th SB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

"I got a positive identification of the insurgents, and then he aimed his weapon at us and fired," Kamps said.

Security is important because the team recovering the vehicle had portection while they were out of their vehicle doing the mission, he added.

4th SB medics set up clinic, treat villagers

Story by Pfc. Adam C. Blazak
13th Public Affairs Det.

The Iraqi Army teamed with Coalition Forces today to set up a medical clinic in the town of Karabila.

The mission was the first of its kind for this small village of just 22 people.

For the past two years, the village has gone without a doctor.

"We need to get medical supplies

and vaccines," said Emaum Ali, a sheik in the village. "The villagers have injuries from shrapnel. But the Americans do good here today."

The villager's sole doctor fled to Baghdad two years ago due to rising violence in the area.

Five villagers were seen by combat medics and were given aspirin to treat their conditions.

"We helped them treat common illnesses today," said Pvt. Whitney C.

Carter, a combat medic with Company C, 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

"Motrin helps with severe pain."

"It's good that the mission went this well," said Sgt. Saad Mohammed, a member of the Iraqi Army who participated in the mission. "It shows that the IA is working well with the U.S. Army."

Dogs, handlers enhance 4ID readiness

Story and photo by
Sgt. Joy Pariente
13th Public Affairs Det.

In Iraq Soldiers can use all the high-tech tools they can get. However, some of the best explosives seeking technology available has four legs and a tail.

Military working dogs who specialize in explosives detection have been working with 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division to help Soldiers detect mines, improvised explosive devices and weapons caches. "If there's any kind of explosive on it, she'll find it," said Sgt. Christina Billingsley, dog handler, 178th Military

Police Detachment, 89th Military Police Brigade, of her dog Liaka.

Liaka and Billingsley were on patrol with Company D, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. in Karabila April 21 where Liaka found weapons hidden inside a tea house that had just been raided and an IED underneath some bushes.

The dog teams "enhance combat power," said Capt. Andrea Leaman, provost marshal, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. "They [the dogs] have abilities we do not."

Billingsley and Liaka work as a team. Billingsley leads Liaka to a suspect area and she searches until she finds something or the area is cleared. Since they spend much of their time in dangerous situations or training for those situations to arise, the bond between them, Billingsley said, is very strong. "It has to be very strong. You have to trust your MWD with your life."



Sgt. Christina Billingsley, 178th Military Police Detachment, 89th MP Brigade, and her military working dog Liaka discover an improvised explosive device hidden under a bush.

MPs train to fight on FOB Raider

By **Pfc. Tiffany Mercer**
13th Public Affairs Det.

The Soldiers with 1st Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, moved through abandoned buildings on Forward Operating Base Raider while out doing Military Operations in Urban Terrain to further prepare themselves for what they will see off of the FOB.

The military police platoon, also known as the "Outlaws," decided that while not out on missions, they would provide additional training to their Soldiers by gearing up and

heading out to increase their skills.

Staff Sgt. Orlando F. Ochoa, the platoon sergeant, decided that they could use their downtime to become more organized and work out all of the kinks that could pop up during a real mission.

"This training helps the Soldiers become more confident with their movements so when they do get into a hostile situation, they're ready for it," Ochoa added.

The Outlaws have not only been doing MOUT training, they have been improving their convoy escorting skills, teaching the correct procedures on how to search enemy prisoners of war, area reconnaissance and route

reconnaissance, Ochoa added.

Some of the Soldiers with 1st Plt. have deployed before, while others have not. "This training is pretty realistic, so it shows the new guys what to expect," Ochoa said.

Spc. Espiridion S. Zuniga, an MP with the "Outlaws" 1st Squad, who has already been downrange, commented on how this type of training will further prepare them for what to expect.

"This helps refresh everybody, the new guys straight out of AIT [advanced individual training], and the ones that have already been to Iraq. It helps us to get the tactics down so they're prepared," Zuniga said.

UAV provides vital support to ground troops

By Pvt. Christopher M.
Gaylord

13th Public Affairs Det.

Missions can be highly stressful as an infantryman or ground troop. The job of a ground troop is one of the toughest and most dangerous jobs. Many times, the enemy could be just ahead of the troops. It is tough not knowing exactly what dangers await, but Unmanned Aerial Vehicles take much of the stress away and provide vital support to units on the ground.

The UAVs scout out the area for troops on the battlefield and conduct recons that allow the commanders of units on the ground to see the area before heading into it, said Staff Sgt. Jared B. Cornell, a UAV operator assigned to 4th Platoon, Company A, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

The particular UAVs Co. A uses is the Shadow 200. They are about 13 feet from nose to tail, have a wingspan of about the same length and average 300 pounds in weight, said Spc. Raymond T. Poltera, a UAV maintenance specialist assigned to Co. A, 1st STB, 4th Inf. Div.

Poltera's job is to perform preventative maintenance checks and services on the UAVs and make sure they are fully mission capable.

"We get the bird off the ground safely," Poltera said. "While deployed, we work 12 hour shifts and launch one bird per hour."

"The UAVs have a camera on them that provides video feed to the commanders of any maneuver elements on the battlefield," Cornell said. "It has a laser pointer, so we can point out target houses, IEDs

[improvised explosive devices] and possible IED threats, insurgents, anyone who might be setting up ambushes, and redirect troops and assist Apaches."

The platoon operating the UAV has equipment at the area of control, called the Ground Data Terminal, that can receive the signal, control the vehicle and download the video feeds, and other commanders have Remote Video Terminals, which allow them to pick up the video, Cornell said.

Cornell's job is to either control the aircraft or operate the camera.

"The UAVs take two people to operate, and the operators rotate between controlling the aircraft and working the payloads [cameras]," Cornell said.

"The UAVs can be controlled from up to 100 kilometers away," Cornell said, "But we can transfer control of the UAVs to other units once they have been launched."

Cornell must coordinate with air traffic controllers in order to determine air space and with intelligence for missions, and talk directly with maintenance to make sure the system software is loaded properly and the weather is good, Cornell said.

The vehicles are equipped with infrared capabilities to provide video feeds at night and heat sensors to detect weapons caches in the ground and points of origin where mortars are fired at friendly troops, Cornell said.

There are times when enemies and insurgents were spotted on rooftops and pointed out by UAVs, Cornell said.

The UAVs were also used in support of explosives ordnance disposal teams to loiter, or hover around in circles, above areas designated by EOD personnel, to point out IEDs or IED threats, Cornell said.

The UAVs have a push engine, with the propeller located in the rear of the vehicle.

Overall, Co. A, 1st STB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. has an extremely important job.

"It's our sole purpose with the UAVs to give the troops on the ground guidance, and it makes us feel we're doing a good job when the troops see the results on the ground," Cornell said. "We can be that extra little support that gets the insurgent or saves somebody's life."



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Susan M. Redwine, 159th Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)

Shadow unmanned aerial vehicles provide a visual overview of the battlefield for commanders on the ground. This Shadow is landing after a mission.

Stay safe, stay in the fight

Story by Pfc. Tiffany Mercer

13th Public Affairs Det.

Safety...a term used loosely, but one that holds extreme importance.

“Wear your eye protection!” “Where’s your Kevlar?” “Make sure and have all of your gear before you leave the FOB!”

These are some of the statements and questions that Soldiers with the 1st “Raider” Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, are hearing while on the Forward Operating Base Raider, where they lived for three weeks while training for their next deployment.

“Probably the biggest safety concern we have is that the Soldiers wear their full battle gear when they go

off the FOB and that they always wear eye protection if they’re outside,” the brigade assistant safety officer, Capt. John T. Collins said.

“These rules help the new Soldiers that haven’t yet been overseas to become acclimated to what the environment will be like over in Iraq. It also gives the veterans the chance to get back into the groove,” Collins added, going on to explain that while in garrison these items are not required for their uniform.

Collins elaborated on the reasons why the chain of command has these rules and what their purposes are. “There have been many examples of Soldiers getting mortared and receiving shrapnel in the eyes and that

resulted in that Soldier’s loss of eyesight,” Collins said.

The Raider Brigade wants to make sure that their Soldiers take as many precautions as they can to prevent those kinds of instances, Collins added.

Collins also wanted the Soldiers to remember the basic skills that they are accustomed to, including vehicle safety knowing that they always need to wear a Kevlar and use ground guides, he said.

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael I. Bobb, the Raider Brigade senior enlisted adviser, also specified why the FOB’s rules are so important. “The more Soldiers wear their equipment while training, the more it will become second nature for them,” Bobb said.

Soldiers also need to remember basic survival skills. Stay hydrated, eat properly and get the correct amount of rest they need for their missions, Bobb said.

Collins further elaborated on the importance of safety, while in the field and when it is time to go downrange.

“The more Soldiers practice, the more ingrained it becomes. They’ll remember to maintain the Ironhorse and Raider standard while they’re over in Iraq,” Collins explained.

The Raider Brigade command sergeant major wanted his Soldiers to become used to wearing their correct gear, to not think about it. “Train as you fight,” he finished.

EFMB, from Page 7

Company, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Inf. Div., continued the Raiders’ tradition of Soldier excellence by completing the written portion of testing with the highest score. After the written exam, only 17 candidates remained.

“It’s a very prestigious badge,” McCreadie said. “People who wear it are

looked upon with a lot of respect throughout the medical community.”

McCreadie’s testing included a written exam on Warrior skills and MOS skills, a 12-mile road march, situational training lanes, and day and night land navigation. The lane training tested areas such as Nuclear, Biological and Chemical skills; medical evacuation; tactical combat casualty care; and Warrior skills in simulated combat

situations, McCreadie said.

McCreadie said his unit selected him for the test because they thought he would make a good candidate. “He’s one of the best E4s in my whole unit,” said Capt. Drew Pearson, commander, HHC, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. “I had no doubt he would pass. It was just a question of how well he would do.”

McCreadie said, “I was really pleased when I heard

I’d be doing it because it was something I’ve wanted to do.”

In addition to earning the coveted medical badge, McCreadie also received a dozen coins and two plaques; one for being the Distinguished Honor Graduate and another for having the fastest 12-mile road march time of two hours and 27 minutes.

MWR puts Soldiers at ease

Story and photos by Pvt.
Christopher M. Gaylord
13th Public Affairs Det.

There is no job tougher than that of a Soldier out working hard and conducting missions, but then again, there is no greater outcome. Soldiers must deal with not only the stress of completing their mission, but also with the feelings that go along with

being dirty, exhausted and in a new place far from home. But when the day is finally done, Soldiers can rest at ease knowing that within the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center here, they can relax and enjoy all the same luxuries and entertainment they left back home.

Located within the MWR center are two big screen televisions, one of

which is designated for movies and one for satellite television, a DVD player, video game consoles, board games, four pool tables, two ping pong tables, two foosball tables, an extensive gym with weights and treadmills, a small library with books donated from libraries back on Fort Hood and a computer lab with seventeen computers, ten of which are hooked up to printers and internet, said Danny D.

Riddlespriger, the shift supervisor at the MWR.

The MWR center is located in Building 56480 on 12th and Headquarters Avenue and is open every day of the week from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The MWR is a great place for Soldiers to go and get their minds off their stressful job.

"The MWR is very important," Riddlespriger said. "It gives the troops a place to go instead of just going back to their bunks and thinking about their families."

"It's better than laying around doing nothing, and it keeps you occupied," said Spc. Steven M. Taylor, a light-wheeled vehicle mechanic assigned to Company B, 4th Support Battalion and

attached to 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

A lot of the Soldiers have come from other places around the world and are far from their families, but they can keep in touch with them and email them here, Riddlespriger said.

"Around 4 or 5 p.m., a lot of Soldiers start trickling in so they can chat with their families," Riddlespriger said. "The highest number of Soldiers we've had here in one day is a little over 300."

The MWR does a lot for the Soldiers and, in return, is very popular among them.

"We work out in the evenings and play pool during the day," said Sgt. Casey G. Sands, a light-wheeled vehicle mechanic assigned to Company B, 4th SB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.. "It keeps me checking my mail, and it's a way to keep in contact with the outside world and check the weather."

"All of the Soldiers need support," said Tasha N. McBride, a recreation aid at the MWR, "Because they're going overseas to fight for all of



The physical fitness equipment is just one of the options Morale, Welfare and Recreation offers to Soldiers looking for something to do.

MEETING, from Page 9

Goodwin gave Al-Dulami a hotline number for the people of his village to call in the case of a suspicious sighting, said Hashissem Mohammed, the vegetable market owner of Ubaydi, who also attended the meeting.

“We need to know when you see strange vehicles or hear talk of caches or training grounds,” Goodwin said to Al-Dulami. “If we help with projects, you have to help us with the insurgency.”

Al-Dulami was also concerned about not having electricity for the village, due to an inoperable generator.

“Tomorrow, when Capt. Kennedy comes out, we’ll bring a mechanic to fix the generator,”

Goodwin said to Al-Dulami. “We can show you how to fix it yourself.”

The teahouse owner of the village addressed damage his shop had suffered to Goodwin.

Goodwin agreed to take a look at the teahouse damage and offered to have it repaired.

“We will do what we can to help with the teahouse reparations as quickly as possible,”

Goodwin said to Al-Dulami. “We will request \$250, but we don’t know what we’ll get.”

Some other issues addressed were a lack of policemen and equipment: weapons, vehicles, and radios.

“We have no radios, only one police car and no money to pay our police,” said Al-Dulami to Goodwin.

In the end, Goodwin agreed that the armed forces would help the village of Ubaydi with its projects if they would help with the insurgency in return.

The meeting went well, and in the end, Goodwin spoke positively of the mission.

“It’s good that the villagers understand that we’re there to help, but not do everything for them,” Goodwin said.



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Adam Blazak, 13th PAD

Pvt. Earp, an infantryman assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division provides security on the landing zone during an air assault mission north of Baghdad April 27, 2007.

MWR, from Page 21

us.”

“I check out computers and help the Soldiers if they have problems getting online, to a website or with printing,” McBride said. “The Soldiers can’t go anywhere, and the MWR gives them somewhere to relax and unwind,” McBride added.

The MWR also holds special parties and events for Soldiers once in a while.

“Each holiday there is some event for Soldiers,” Riddlespriger said. “For example, on Valentine’s Day, we put out candy for the Soldiers.”

“Every Superbowl Sunday, we have a party with pizzas donated,” Riddlespriger said.

Riddlespriger takes an immense amount of pride in his job at the MWR, and he and the rest of the staff have tried to make it

the best they can for the Soldiers and will continue to do so.

“Before we got here, the MWR only had a few pieces of equipment,” Riddlespriger said, “but we were able to upgrade and get some newer equipment.”

“It’s a necessary job, and it gives the guys somewhere to relax after they’ve been out there on missions,” Riddlespriger said. “I’ve

been in the military, so I know how important this is.”

“The only hard part is watching them go,” McBride said.

Co-located within the MWR and on the second floor of Building 56480 is the barbershop, which is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

DRUGS, from Page 5

variety of factors, such as lack of support from the parents, the child having to accept too much responsibility at home, and self-esteem issues stemming from the embarrassment of having a drug-addicted parent.

There is also some evidence that suggests that fathers who use drugs tend to be more critical and conflicted in relationships when they have a son, probably due to feelings of guilt about the example being set for the son. In such circumstances, the son tends to take on the father's responsibilities, usually in an attempt to compensate for the lack of parenting provided by the father.

Drug use also has a negative effect on the relationship of the drug user and other adults, such as a spouse, in the household. Studies have shown that substance abuse disrupts relationships by exacerbating other problems and multiplying stressors. In one study, couples' interactions were observed during periods of sobriety and compared with periods of drug use. During the periods of drug use, the user showed more avoidance

and less discussion of real problems; more hostility and anger in conversations, often in the form of critical comments; more disagreements and exaggeration of small problems into big issues; and far fewer positive interactions in terms of compliments, signs of empathy, and smiling.

Like the destruction caused to relationships inside the home, drug use negatively impacts job performance. There may be repeated absences from work or poor work performance.

This is especially problematic in military units where a Soldier may be expected to perform physically hazardous work. And unlike other professions where the consequences of drug use are usually just a pink slip, Soldiers who use drugs face much more serious professional consequences.

When a Soldier tests positive for illegal drugs, the Soldier's commander is permitted to choose from a range of possible options to punish the behavior. Many Soldiers mistakenly believe that the most severe form of punishment they will face is nonjudicial punishment. However,

the UCMJ sets maximum punishment for a courts-martial convictions for wrongful use of marijuana at two years confinement, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and a dishonorable discharge. Other drugs, such as cocaine, heroin, and LSD carry up to five years confinement.

Even under circumstances where the commander opts for less severe forms of punishment, such as a summary courts-martial, a Soldier faces being sentenced to up to 30 days confinement and forfeiture of two-thirds of one month's pay.

Additionally, Army regulations governing drug use require a commander to command-refer a Soldier to the Army Substance Abuse Program for a screening, which will likely lead to the Soldier being enrolled in the ASAP program and subjected to periodic drug screens.

Additionally, commanders are required by Army regulation to process any Soldier testing positive for illegal drug use involuntary separation from service.

When Soldiers are involuntarily separated

from service because of drug usage, they face an unfavorable characterization of service and losing, not only their military career, but also many of their accrued benefits and their status as veterans.

For example, first-term Soldiers who are discharged with less than an honorable discharge lose their GI Bill benefits. Additionally, Soldiers separated with less than a general discharge lose their status as veterans for federal and state-sponsored programs.

There are a very few Soldiers who are chronic or regular drug users. Eventually, those Soldiers will be caught because the effects of the drug usage become more obvious over time. Most other Soldiers, however, use drugs as a spur-of-the-moment decision. If you find yourself in a position where you are offered drugs, do the right thing. Don't use them.

Drug use is inconsistent with our values and with mission accomplishment. It also carries incredibly high risks to your physiological, personal, and professional life.



U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Christopher Gaylord, 13th PAD

Spc. Paul Esparza, an artilleryman assigned to Battery B, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, provides security during a cache search near Karabila north of Baghdad, May 2, 2007.



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Tiffany Mercer, 13th PAD

Spc. Wesley Lavers, a medic assigned to 2nd Platoon, Battery B, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, provides security for the battalion commander and the embedded media during a patrol in Karabila north of Baghdad May 3, 2007.

LOAD, from Page 16

said.

The 4th SB is running the Division Holding Area Annex in support of the 1st BCT, said Capt. Donald Campbell, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Spt. Bn., 1st BCT.

On the other Chinook helicopter Soldiers from Co. A, Co. B, and Co. C trained using a forklift to load cargo into the rear of the helicopter.

The Soldiers are using aviation assets to train and prepare to move equipment in support of the fight, Dominguez said.

"These Soldiers have really done a good job out here today," Campbell said. "They started classroom training just before coming out and have really gone zero-to-sixty in considerably short time."

This is just the crawl and walk phase for the Soldiers, Campbell said. "The run phase is coming early next month and we are looking forward to the opportunity."

5 May 2007

To the Soldiers and Families of the Raider Brigade:

On Monday, May 7, 2007 at 4 p.m., the Department of Defense will announce the future deployment of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 44th Infantry Division, to Iraq in December 2007.

The 4th Inf. Div. Headquarters has already received its deployment announcement. No other units in the 4th Inf. Div. have received deployment orders.

The Raider Brigade will complete our post-deployment priorities: reset, reintegrate, retrain and prepare for deployment. We will release additional details on stop loss and deployment location through the chain of command and family readiness groups as it becomes available.

I great appreciate the continued support of your Soldier as they answer this call to duty.

Raider 6